This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~1~~ 7, wherein each token specifies at least one management entity, wherein only the management entity specified in the token has access rights to the set of configuration parameters associated with that token, wherein at least one token specifies one management entity at the client computer and at least one other token specifies one management entity at the remote computer.

3. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~1~~ 7, wherein the at least one program is capable of comprising a boot program, operating system or application program.

4. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~1~~ 46, wherein the client computer and remote computer are capable of modifying the access rights specified in the token if the access rights permit the client computer or remote computer requesting the modification write access to the set of configuration parameters, further comprising:

storing modifications in the non-volatile storage unit from the client computer or remote computer to the access rights specified in the token for one set of configuration parameters, wherein the modifications are made to the token if the client computer or remote computer initiating the modifications is indicated in the access writes as having write access.

5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 4, wherein the access rights in one token specify one application program in the remote computer or client program that can modify the set of configuration parameters.

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~1~~ 46, further comprising:

launching a configuration program from a removable storage unit interfaced with the client computer, wherein the configuration program is used to modify sets of configuration parameters in the non-volatile storage unit.

7. (Currently amended) ~~The method of claim 6, further comprising:~~ A method of configuring a client computer connected to a network, wherein a remote computer is capable of communicating with the client computer over the network, comprising:

storing sets of configuration parameters in a non-volatile storage unit, wherein the sets of configuration parameters instruct at least one program how to initialize operational parameters and load programs into the client computer memory during a power on;

for each set of configuration parameters, storing a token in the non-volatile storage unit indicating access rights to the set of configuration parameters, wherein the token specifies whether management entities running on the remote computer and client computer can access the set of configuration parameters for that token, and wherein if the sets of configuration parameters are overlapping then a first management entity running on the remote computer and a second management entity running on the client computer can configure a same set of configuration parameters;

launching a configuration program from a removable storage unit interfaced with the client computer, wherein the configuration program is used to modify sets of configuration parameters in the non-volatile storage unit;

launching a setup program from the removable storage unit during a power on when the client computer has not previously been configured;

receiving settings for at least one set of configuration parameters via the setup program; and

storing the received settings in the non-volatile storage unit, wherein the configuration program is launched to provide an interface to allow the a user to set configuration parameters for other sets of configuration parameters.

8. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~1~~ 7, wherein the sets of configuration associated with the tokens include at least one of the following sets of configuration parameters:

network configuration parameters indicating network settings the client computer uses to communicate over the network;

operating system configuration parameters for an operating system loaded into the client computer memory;

application configuration parameters indicating parameters for application programs loaded into the client computer memory;

user configuration parameters indicating settings for a user interface displayed at the client computer; and

Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP) configuration parameters.

9. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~1~~ 46, further comprising:

launching a setup program from a removable storage unit during a power on when the client computer has not previously been configured;

receiving settings for network configuration parameters indicating a network address for the client computer through the setup program;

receiving operating system configuration parameters for an operating system kernel to load into the client computer memory through the setup program; and

storing the network and operating system configuration parameters received through the setup program in the non-volatile storage unit.

10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 9, further comprising launching a configuration program from the setup program to receive application configuration parameters for application programs to load into the client computer memory and user interface configuration parameters.

11. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~1~~ 7, further performing beginning an initialization routine after a power on event, wherein if the client computer was previously configured, during the initialization performing:

loading network configuration parameters stored in the non-volatile storage unit indicating a network address for the client computer to use; and

loading operating system configuration parameters when loading an operating system kernel.

12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the operating system is loaded from the removable storage unit interfacing with the client computer.

13. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the operating system configuration parameters indicate a remote server on the network including the operating system kernel, further comprising during the initialization:

downloading the operating system kernel from the remote server indicated in the operating system configuration parameters; and

loading the downloaded operating system kernel into the client computer.

14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11, further comprising:

loading at least one application program indicated in the application configuration parameters into the memory of the client computer.

15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 14, further comprising:

accessing the at least one application program from a remote server over the network or from the removable storage unit interfacing with the client computer, wherein the accessed at least one application program is loaded into the client computer memory.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently amended) The system of claim ~~16~~ 22, wherein each token specifies at least one management entity, wherein only the management entity specified in the token has access rights to the set of configuration parameters associated with that token, wherein at least one token specifies one management entity at the client computer and at least one other token specifies one management entity at the remote computer.

18. (Currently amended) The system of claim ~~16~~ 22, wherein the at least one program code includes a boot program, operating system or application program.

19. (Currently amended) The system of claim ~~16~~ 48, wherein the client computer and remote computer are capable of modifying the access rights specified in the token if the access rights permit the client computer or remote computer requesting the modification write access to the set of configuration parameters, wherein the program code is further capable of causing the client computer processor to perform:

storing modifications in the non-volatile storage unit from the client computer or remote computer to the access rights specified in the token for one set of configuration parameters, wherein the modifications are made to the token if the client computer or remote computer initiating the modifications is indicated in the access writes as having write access.

20. (Previously presented) The system of claim 19, wherein the access rights in one token specify one application program in the remote computer or client program that can modify the set of configuration parameters.

21.(Currently amended) The system of claim ~~19~~ 48, wherein the program code is further capable of causing the client computer processor to perform:

launching a configuration program from a removable storage unit interfaced with the client computer, wherein the configuration program is used to modify sets of configuration parameters in the non-volatile storage unit.

22. (Currently amended) ~~The system of claim 21, wherein the program code is further capable of causing the client computer processor to perform:~~ A system for configuring a client computer connected to a network, wherein a remote computer is capable of communicating with the client computer over the network, comprising:

a non-volatile storage unit;

a processor capable of accessing the non-volatile storage unit;

a computer readable medium including program code accessible to the processor, wherein the processor executes the program code to perform:

(i) storing sets of configuration parameters in the non-volatile storage unit, wherein the sets of configuration parameters instruct at least one program how to initialize operational parameters and load programs into the client computer memory during a power on; and

(ii) for each set of configuration parameters, storing a token in the non-volatile storage unit indicating access rights to the set of configuration parameters, wherein the token specifies whether management entities running on the remote computer and client computer can access the set of configuration parameters for that token, and wherein if the sets of configuration parameters are overlapping then a first management entity running on the remote computer and a

second management entity running on the client computer can configure a same set of configuration parameters;

(iii) launching a configuration program from a removable storage unit interfaced with the client computer, wherein the configuration program is used to modify sets of configuration parameters in the non-volatile storage unit;

(iv) launching a setup program from the removable storage unit during a power on when the client computer has not previously been configured;

(v) receiving settings for at least one set of configuration parameters via the setup program; and

(vi) storing the received settings in the non-volatile storage unit, wherein the configuration program is launched to provide an interface to allow ~~the~~ a user to set configuration parameters for other sets of configuration parameters.

23.(Currently amended) The system of claim ~~16~~ 22, wherein the sets of configuration associated with the tokens include at least one of the following sets of configuration parameters:

network configuration parameters indicating network settings the client computer uses to communicate over the network;

operating system configuration parameters for an operating system loaded into the client computer memory;

application configuration parameters indicating parameters for application programs loaded into the client computer memory;

user configuration parameters indicating settings for a user interface displayed at the client computer; and

Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP) configuration parameters.

24. (Currently amended) The system of claim ~~16~~ 48, wherein the program code is further capable of causing the client computer processor to perform:

launching a setup program from a removable storage unit during a power on when the client computer has not previously been configured;

receiving settings for network configuration parameters indicating a network address for the client computer through the setup program;

receiving operating system configuration parameters for an operating system kernel to load into the client computer memory through the setup program; and

storing the network and operating system configuration parameters received through the setup program in the non-volatile storage unit.

25. (Previously presented) The system of claim 24, wherein the program code is further capable of causing the client computer processor to perform launching a configuration program from the setup program to receive application configuration parameters for application programs to load into the client computer memory and user interface configuration parameters.

26. (Currently amended) The system of claim ~~16~~ 22, wherein the program code is further capable of causing the client computer processor to perform beginning an initialization routine after a power on event, wherein if the client computer was previously configured, during the initialization performing:

loading network configuration parameters stored in the non-volatile storage unit indicating a network address for the client computer to use; and

loading operating system configuration parameters when loading an operating system kernel.

27. (Previously presented) The system of claim 26, wherein the operating system is loaded from the removable storage unit interfacing with the client computer.

28. (Previously presented) The system of claim 26, wherein the operating system configuration parameters indicate a remote server on the network including the operating system kernel, further wherein the program code is further capable of causing the client computer processor to perform during the initialization:

downloading the operating system kernel from the remote server indicated in the operating system configuration parameters; and

loading the downloaded operating system kernel into the client computer.

29. (Previously presented) The system of claim 26, wherein the program code is further capable of causing the client computer processor to perform:

loading at least one application program indicated in the application configuration parameters into the memory of the client computer.

30. (Previously presented) The system of claim 29, wherein the program code is further capable of causing the client computer processor to perform:

accessing the at least one application program from a remote server over the network or from the removable storage unit interfacing with the client computer, wherein the accessed at least one application program is loaded into the client computer memory.

31.(Canceled)

32. (Currently amended) The program of claim ~~31~~ 37, wherein each token specifies at least one management entity, wherein only the management entity specified in the token has access rights to the set of configuration parameters associated with that token, wherein at least one token specifies one management entity at the client computer and at least one other token specifies one management entity at the remote computer.

33. (Currently amended) The program of claim ~~31~~ 37, wherein the at least one program is capable of comprising a boot program, operating system or application program.

34. (Currently amended) The program of claim ~~31~~ 48, wherein the client computer and remote computer are capable of modifying the access rights specified in the token if the access rights permit the client computer or remote computer requesting the modification write access to the set of configuration parameters, wherein the program code is further capable of causing the processor to perform:

storing modifications in the non-volatile storage unit from the client computer or remote computer to the access rights specified in the token for one set of configuration parameters, wherein the modifications are made to the token if the client computer or remote computer initiating the modifications is indicated in the access writes as having write access.

35. (Previously presented) The program of claim 34, wherein the access rights in one token specify one application program in the remote computer or client program that can modify the set of configuration parameters.

36. (Currently amended) The program of claim ~~31~~ 48, wherein the program code is further capable of causing the processor to perform:

launching a configuration program from a removable storage unit interfaced with the client computer, wherein the configuration program is used to modify sets of configuration parameters in the non-volatile storage unit.

37. (Currently amended) ~~The program of claim 36, wherein the program code is further capable of causing the processor to perform:~~ A program of configuring a client computer connected to a network, wherein a remote computer is capable of communicating with the client

computer over the network, wherein the program includes code embedded in a computer readable medium capable of causing a processor to perform:

storing sets of configuration parameters in a non-volatile storage unit, wherein the sets of configuration parameters instruct at least one program how to initialize operational parameters and load programs into the client computer memory during a power on; and

for each set of configuration parameters, storing a token in the non-volatile storage unit indicating access rights to the set of configuration parameters, wherein the token specifies whether management entities running on the remote computer and client computer can access the set of configuration parameters for that token, and wherein if the sets of configuration parameters are overlapping then a first management entity running on the remote computer and a second management entity running on the client computer can configure a same set of configuration parameters;

launching a configuration program from a removable storage unit interfaced with the client computer, wherein the configuration program is used to modify sets of configuration parameters in the non-volatile storage unit;

launching a setup program from the removable storage unit during a power on when the client computer has not previously been configured;

receiving settings for at least one set of configuration parameters via the setup program; and

storing the received settings in the non-volatile storage unit, wherein the configuration program is launched to provide an interface to allow ~~the~~ a user to set configuration parameters for other sets of configuration parameters.

38. (Currently amended) The program of claim ~~31~~ 37, wherein the sets of configuration associated with the tokens include at least one of the following sets of configuration parameters:

network configuration parameters indicating network settings the client computer uses to communicate over the network;

operating system configuration parameters for an operating system loaded into the client computer memory;

application configuration parameters indicating parameters for application programs loaded into the client computer memory;

user configuration parameters indicating settings for a user interface displayed at the client computer; and

Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP) configuration parameters.

39. (Currently amended) The program of claim ~~31~~ 48, wherein the program code is further capable of causing the processor to perform:

launching a setup program from a removable storage unit during a power on when the client computer has not previously been configured;

receiving settings for network configuration parameters indicating a network address for the client computer through the setup program;

receiving operating system configuration parameters for an operating system kernel to load into the client computer memory through the setup program; and

storing the network and operating system configuration parameters received through the setup program in the non-volatile storage unit.

40. (Previously presented) The program of claim 39, wherein the program code is further capable of causing the processor to perform launching a configuration program from the setup program to receive application configuration parameters for application programs to load into the client computer memory and user interface configuration parameters.

41. (Currently amended) The program of claim ~~31~~ 37, wherein the program code is further capable of causing the processor to perform beginning an initialization routine after a power on event, wherein if the client computer was previously configured, during the initialization performing:

loading network configuration parameters stored in the non-volatile storage unit indicating a network address for the client computer to use; and

loading operating system configuration parameters when loading an operating system kernel.

42. (Currently amended) The program of claim ~~31~~ 41, wherein the operating system is loaded from the removable storage unit interfacing with the client computer.

43. (Previously presented) The program of claim 41, wherein the operating system configuration parameters indicate a remote server on the network including the operating system kernel, wherein the program code is further capable of causing the processor to perform:

downloading the operating system kernel from the remote server indicated in the operating system configuration parameters; and

loading the downloaded operating system kernel into the client computer.

44. (Currently amended) The program of claim ~~31~~ 41, wherein the program code is further capable of causing the processor to perform:

loading at least one application program indicated in the application configuration parameters into the memory of the client computer.

45. (Previously presented) The program of claim 44, wherein the program code is further capable of causing the processor to perform:

accessing the at least one application program from a remote server over the network or from the removable storage unit interfacing with the client computer, wherein the accessed at least one application program is loaded into the client computer memory.

46. (Currently amended) ~~The method of claim 2,~~ A method of configuring a client computer connected to a network, wherein a remote computer is capable of communicating with the client computer over the network, comprising:

storing sets of configuration parameters in a non-volatile storage unit, wherein the sets of configuration parameters instruct at least one program how to initialize operational parameters and load programs into the client computer memory during a power on;

for each set of configuration parameters, storing a token in the non-volatile storage unit indicating access rights to the set of configuration parameters, wherein the token specifies whether management entities running on the remote computer and client computer can access the set of configuration parameters for that token, and wherein if the sets of configuration parameters are overlapping then a first management entity running on the remote computer and a second management entity running on the client computer can configure a same set of configuration parameters, wherein each token specifies at least one management entity, wherein only the management entity specificd in the token has access rights to the set of configuration parameters associated with that token, wherein at least one token specifies one management entity at the client computer and at least one other token specifies one management entity at the remote computer, and wherein a first user at the client computer and a second user at the remote computer are both capable of changing access settings indicated in the token to exclude other users from access to corresponding configuration parameters of the token.

47. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~1~~ 7, wherein the token is a first type of token, and wherein the method further comprises:

storing a second type of token in the non volatile storage unit, wherein the second type of token indicates whether any management entity is allowed to access an associated set of configuration parameters, and wherein before accessing one of the associated set of configuration parameters a management entity determines if the second type of token for the one configuration parameter enables access in general.

48. (Currently amended) ~~The system of claim 17,~~ A system for configuring a client computer connected to a network, wherein a remote computer is capable of communicating with the client computer over the network, comprising:

a non-volatile storage unit;

a processor capable of accessing the non-volatile storage unit;

a computer readable medium including program code accessible to the processor, wherein the processor executes the program code to perform:

(i) storing sets of configuration parameters in the non-volatile storage unit, wherein the sets of configuration parameters instruct at least one program how to initialize operational parameters and load programs into the client computer memory during a power on; and

(ii) for each set of configuration parameters, storing a token in the non-volatile storage unit indicating access rights to the set of configuration parameters, wherein the token specifies whether management entities running on the remote computer and client computer can access the set of configuration parameters for that token, and wherein if the sets of configuration parameters are overlapping then a first management entity running on the remote computer and a second management entity running on the client computer can configure a same set of configuration parameters, wherein each token specifies at least one management entity, wherein only the management entity specified in the token has access rights to the set of configuration parameters associated with that token, wherein at least one token specifies one management entity at the client computer and at least one other token specifies one management entity at the

remote computer, and wherein a first user at the client computer and a second user at the remote computer are both capable of changing access settings indicated in the token to exclude other users from access to corresponding configuration parameters of the token.

49. (Currently amended) The system of claim ~~16~~ 22, wherein the token is a first type of token, and wherein the processor executes the program code to further perform:

storing a second type of token in the non volatile storage unit, wherein the second type of token indicates whether any management entity is allowed to access an associated set of configuration parameters, and wherein before accessing one of the associated set of configuration parameters a management entity determines if the second type of token for the one configuration parameter enables access in general.

50. (Currently amended) ~~The article of manufacture of claim 32;~~ A program of configuring a client computer connected to a network, wherein a remote computer is capable of communicating with the client computer over the network, wherein the program includes code embedded in a computer readable medium capable of causing a processor to perform:

storing sets of configuration parameters in a non-volatile storage unit, wherein the sets of configuration parameters instruct at least one program how to initialize operational parameters and load programs into the client computer memory during a power on; and

for each set of configuration parameters, storing a token in the non-volatile storage unit indicating access rights to the set of configuration parameters, wherein the token specifies whether management entities running on the remote computer and client computer can access the set of configuration parameters for that token, and wherein if the sets of configuration parameters are overlapping then a first management entity running on the remote computer and a second management entity running on the client computer can configure a same set of configuration parameters, wherein each token specifies at least one management entity, wherein only the management entity specified in the token has access rights to the set of configuration parameters

associated with that token, wherein at least one token specifies one management entity at the client computer and at least one other token specifies one management entity at the remote computer, and wherein a first user at the client computer and a second user at the remote computer are both capable of changing access settings indicated in the token to exclude other users from access to corresponding configuration parameters of the token.

51. (Currently amended) The article of manufacture of claim ~~31~~ 37, wherein the token is a first type of token, and wherein the program is further capable of causing the processor to perform:

storing a second type of token in the non volatile storage unit, wherein the second type of token indicates whether any management entity is allowed to access an associated set of configuration parameters, and wherein before accessing one of the associated set of configuration parameters a management entity determines if the second type of token for the one configuration parameter enables access in general.